

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 10, 19 and 20 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for arranging insurance for an item to be shipped from an origination to a final destination, wherein the method comprises:

receiving a request, wherein the request is a request to insure the item ~~being shipped~~ during shipment from ~~[[an]]the~~ origination to ~~[[a]]the~~ final destination;

searching a database for a cost effective insurance for the item, wherein the cost effective insurance provides a specified level of insurance coverage for the item during shipment;

generating a data file comprising at least the following:

item information indicative of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of insurance; and

storing the data file in a memory device that accompanies the item during shipment.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device is configured to allow the data file to be updated at any time before, during or after the shipment.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising packing the item in a container for shipping, wherein the container is configured to fit with multiple other containers in a carrier.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding copies of at least a portion of the data file via the network to one or more of the parties involved in the shipping, wherein the parties include at least an originator of the request to ship the item, a recipient of the item at the final destination, and at least one insurance company.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding copies of the data file via the network to one or more predetermined email addresses.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding a copy of the data file via a network to a central server.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising shipping the item using the least expensive routing.

8. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises contact information for at least one ~~of the~~ insurance company[[ies]] that will ~~insure the item~~provide said insurance.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing the data file on a server connected to a network, wherein the server provides access to the data file via the network.

10. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein storing the data file comprises storing the data file in an XML format.

11. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the network data is exchanged in an XML format.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises item weight information.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises item handling information.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises item content information.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises insurance information.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises one or more digital images of the item before, during, or after shipping.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises one or more digital images of the item showing the physical condition of the item upon receipt.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device comprises an air testing device configured to test air samples for contaminants and to store test results in the data file.

19. (Currently amended) A system for arranging insurance for an item to be[[ing]] shipped from an origination to a final destination, wherein the system comprises:

a memory device, wherein the memory device stores information about the item,
wherein the memory device accompanies the item during shipment; and

a server connected to the memory device, wherein the server is configured to communicate with the memory device using a network, wherein the server is configured to:

receive a request, wherein the request is a request to insure the item being shipped during shipment from ~~[[an]]the~~ origination to ~~[[a]]the~~ final destination;

search a database for a cost effective insurance for the item, wherein the cost effective insurance provides maximum insurance coverage for the item during shipment for the least cost;

generate a data file comprising at least the following:

item information indicative of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of insurance; and

store the data file in the memory device that accompanies the item during shipment.

20. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer system to implement a method of:

receiving a request, wherein the request is a request to insure ~~[[the]]an~~ item being shipped during shipment from an origination to a final destination;

searching a database for a cost effective insurance for the item, wherein the cost effective insurance provides maximum insurance coverage for the item during shipment for the least cost;

generating a data file comprising at least the following:

item information indicative of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of insurance; and

storing the data file in a memory device that accompanies the item during shipment.